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ABSTRACT

Based upon results from an official census undertaken during the fourth week of the spring 1998 term, this report provides data on student demographics and enrollment trends from spring 1994 through spring 1998 at the three colleges of California's Los Rios Community College District: American River College, Cosumnes River College, and Sacramento City College. Following a brief introduction, data are provided covering: (1) district-wide spring term enrollment for each year; (2) district-wide enrollment by student ethnicity, gender, age group, and day and evening attendance status; (3) enrollment by average student unit load and student status (i.e., new, transfer returning, special admit, or continuing); and (4) district enrollment by prior college units completed. Selected findings include the following: (1) total district enrollment at the end of spring 1998 was 53,737, up from 52,278 in spring 1997; (2) between spring 1994 and spring 1998, the proportion of ethnic minority students increased from 37.3% to 40% of enrollment; (3) the number of students age 40 and over increased from 17.7% in spring 1994 to 21.7% in spring 1998; (4) in spring 1998, 48.4% of students were enrolled in day classes only, 27.7% in evening classes only, and 24% in both; and (5) the proportion of students who had no previous college units increased by 13.2% between 1994 and 1998, although the proportion of those with Bachelor's degrees also increased over the period. (BCY)

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Spring 1998 Student Profile

Betty Glyer-Culver

Los Rios Community College District

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Institutional Research

Spring 1998 Student Profile

Based upon First Census Data

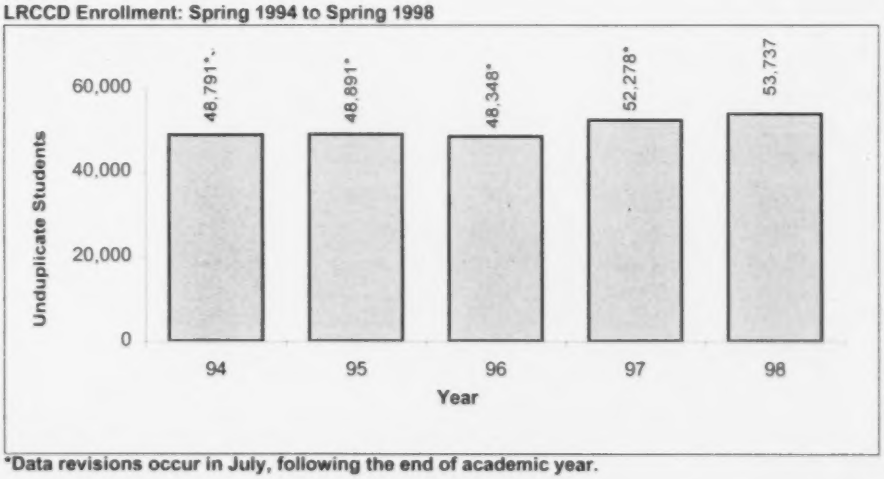
April 1998

This is the first in a series of Spring Profiles based upon the official Spring First Census issued during the fourth week of classes. These annual summaries provide the District and its colleges – American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC), and Sacramento City College (SCC)—with data on student demographics and enrollment trends – important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on the official Spring First Census reports that are issued for the fourth week of classes. It is also based upon demographic data generated from the official First Census research database. Data represent all students enrolled in *any* course as of first census, regardless of when those courses are actually scheduled to start. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that *excludes* those students who have dropped their courses by First Census.

District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. The enrollment pattern tends to reflect changing adult population trends. After a slight decline in district enrollment from Spring 1995 to Spring 1996 (by 1.1%), enrollment began to increase in Spring 1997. In Spring 1997 enrollment increased by 8.1% and in Spring 1998 enrollment increased 2.8%.

Chart 1
LRCCD Enrollment: Spring 1994 to Spring 1998

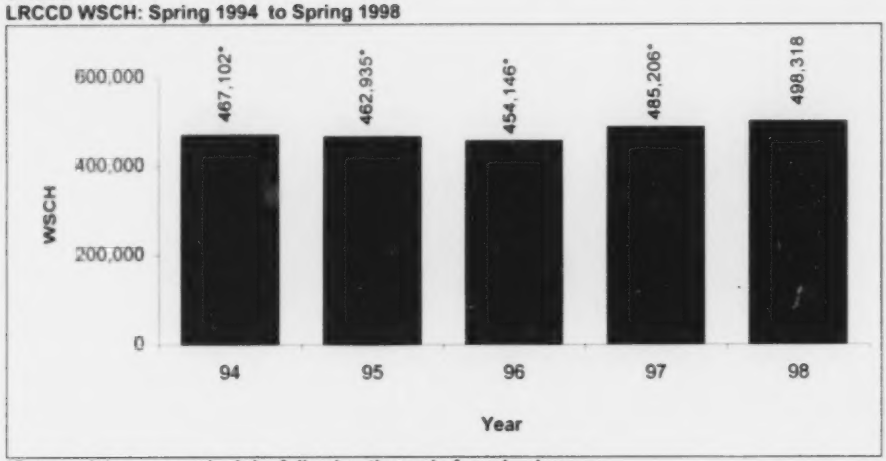


*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of academic year.

Enrollment increased at each of the Los Rios colleges in Spring 1998 from the 1997 figures: by 1.9% at ARC (to 21,056), by 2.5% at CRC (to 8,686 students, noting that Folsom Lake and El Dorado enrollment figures are now reported separately), by 2.7% at SCC (to 18,467) and 7.2% at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers (to 5,528).

District Weekly Student Contact Hours

Chart 2
LRCCD WSCH: Spring 1994 to Spring 1998



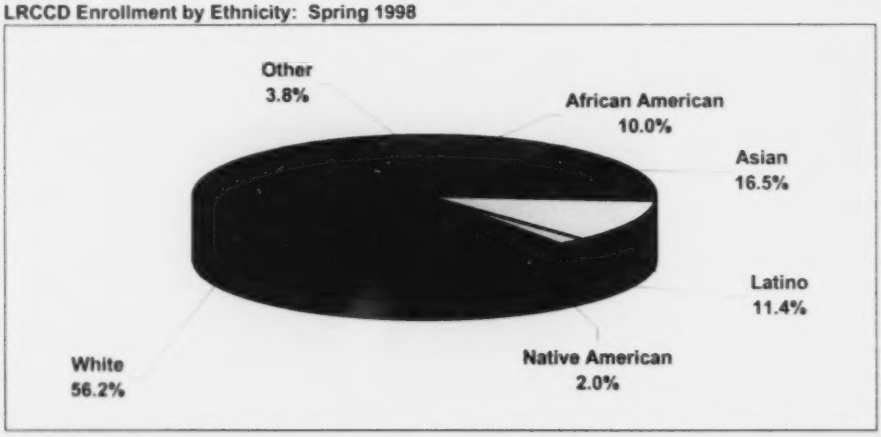
*Data revisions occur in July, following the end of academic year.

As indicated in Chart 2, after an annual decline in WSCH in Spring 1996, Weekly Student Contact Hours increased in Spring 1997 (by 6.8%). The Spring 1997 increase in WSCH is slightly less than the increase in District enrollment, and may partly be attributed to the enrollment growth at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado centers which are campuses where students are more part-time in nature. Of interest, is the Spring 1998 WSCH increase of 2.7% which matches the proportional increase in District enrollment.

District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 3 depicts the District's ethnic mix in Spring 1998. The total proportion of ethnic minorities among the Los Rios student population continues to increase, from 37.3% in Spring 1994 to 40.0% in Spring 1998.

Chart 3
LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity: Spring 1998



Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled at Los Rios, increasing from 15.2% of all students in Spring 1994 to 16.5% in the Spring 1998 semester. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Spring 1998 enrollment is as follows: Latinos, 11.4%; African Americans, 10.0%; Native

Americans, 2.0%; and the remaining 3.8% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those whose ethnicity was unspecified. The proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios community colleges continues to decline slightly, from 58.7% of total enrollment in Spring 1994 to 56.2% in Spring 1998.

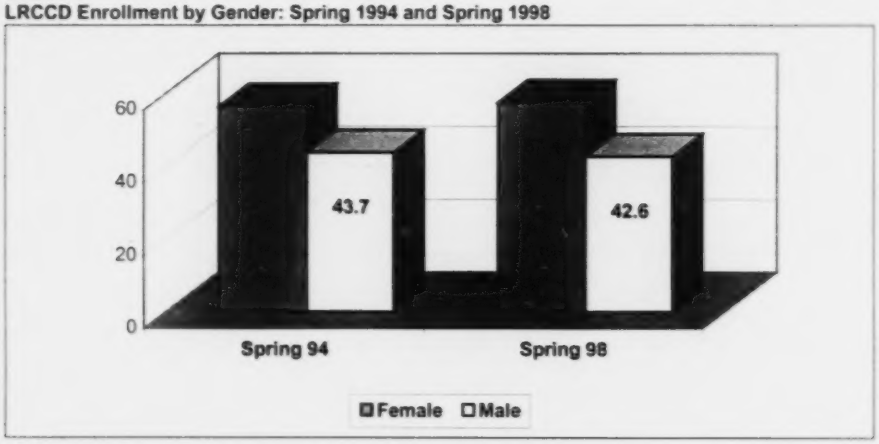
The 40% enrollment of ethnic minority students in Spring 1998 continues to be substantially higher than the proportions of the ethnic minority population living in the surrounding Sacramento-Yolo Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) served by the Los Rios colleges. The July 1996 CMSA data reports 29.3% of Sacramento's area population are members of a minority group.

There are some interesting differences in Spring 1998 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. SCC enrolls a higher proportion of African Americans (12.5%), Asians (23.6%), and Latino's (14.4%) when compared to District enrollment proportions. Subsequently, SCC's proportional enrollment of white students is much lower, 43.5% compared to 56.2% district-wide. ARC enrollment based on ethnicity shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories and a higher proportion of white (65.5%) student enrollment. CRC's enrollment pattern based on ethnicity generally mirrors District proportions.

District Enrollment by Gender

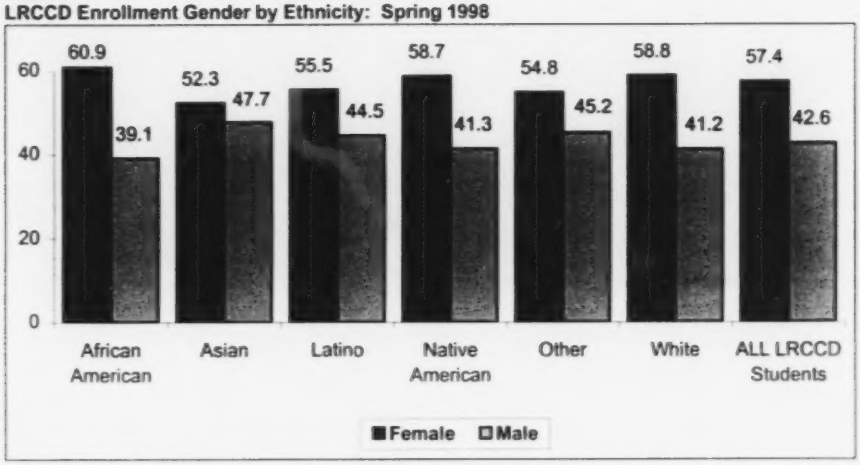
As shown in Chart 4, enrollment by gender in Spring 1998 has changed only slightly since Spring 1994. The proportions of women enrolled at Los Rios colleges increased by 1.1% from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. ARC and SCC Spring enrollment based on gender reflects the District's enrollment proportions. CRC's enrollment proportions of women to men for Spring 1998 varies slightly from the District, with 59.7% female and 40.3% male enrollment.

Chart 4
LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998



Spring 1998 District enrollment by gender based on ethnicity illustrates differing enrollment patterns within several ethnic categories. As demonstrated in Chart 5, African American enrollment has a substantially higher proportion of female students (60.9%) than males (39.1%), while Asians are enrolled in relatively similar proportions of females (52.3%) and male (47.7%) students. The proportions of Latino and Native American enrollment generally mirror the District pattern.

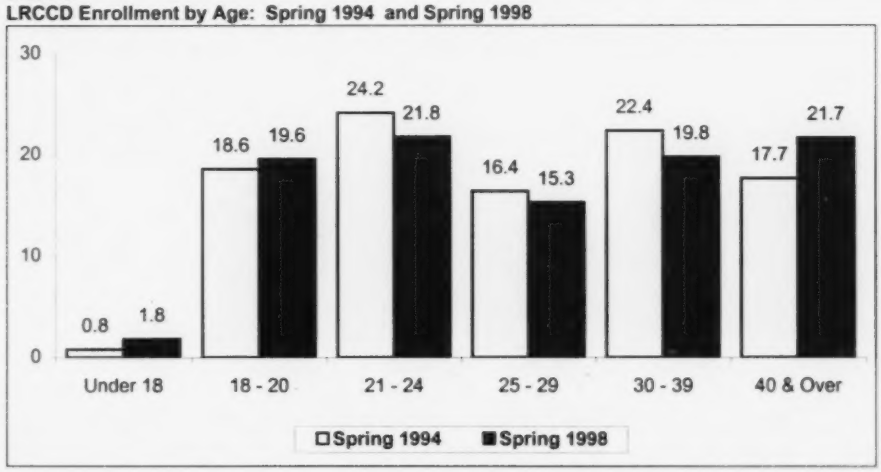
Chart 5
LRCCD Enrollment Gender by Ethnicity: Spring 1998



District Enrollment by Age Group

The trend of declining proportions of students 20-and-under may be starting to stabilize, as there was a slight increase in proportional enrollment in this age grouping. Chart 6 illustrates the slight increase for those students 20-and-under, increasing by 2% from Spring 1994 (19.4%) to Spring 1998 (21.4%). The declining proportions of enrollment of students in both the 21 – 24 and 25 – 29 age categories continues. The proportions of students enrolled who were 21 – 24 declined from 24.2% in Spring 1994 to 21.8% in Spring 1998. Proportional enrollment of students aged 25 – 29 was 16.4% in Spring 1994 compared to a lower 15.3% in Spring 1998. In addition, there was a 2.6% enrollment decline in the 30 – 39 age group in Spring 1998, decreasing from 22.4% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 19.8% in Spring 1998. The most significant growth continues to be with those students 40-and-over, increasing from 17.7% of all students in Spring 1994 to 21.7% in Spring 1998.

Chart 6
LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998



Comparison of district and college level enrollment by age results in some interesting proportional differences. ARC enrolls a slightly higher proportion (59.3%) of students aged 21 – 39 compared to district-wide enrollment proportions (56.9%). CRC enrolls a higher proportion of both students under-20 and students 40-and-over than district-wide proportions. The proportion of students enrolled at CRC

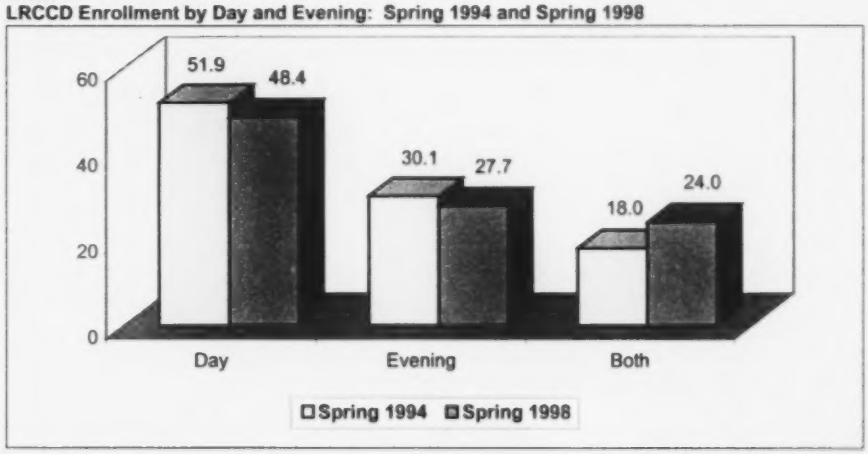
under-20 was 24.1% compared to 21.4% district-wide. Proportional enrollment of students 40-and-over was 4.3% higher at CRC (26.0%) than district-wide enrollment proportions (21.7%). The higher enrollment of students 40-and-over at CRC could be partially attributed to older student attendance at CRC's center affiliates, Folsom Lake and El Dorado. SCC enrollment patterns are also slightly different than seen at the other two colleges as well as at the District level. SCC enrolls a higher proportion of students 21 – 29 (41.1%) compared to the district's enrollment proportion of 37.1%. SCC students who are 40-and-over enrolled at a lower proportion (17.8%) than district-wide (21.7%) proportional enrollment in this age category.

The comparison of Fall 1997 to Spring 1998 enrollment by age demonstrates the expected decreases district-wide in students under-20 and small enrollment increases in each of the under-39 age categories. The tendency towards an older student population at LRCCD is evident in Fall to Spring enrollment, as enrollment of students 40-and-over increased by 1.8%, from 19.9% in Fall 1997 to 21.7% in Spring 1998.

District Enrollment by Day and Evening

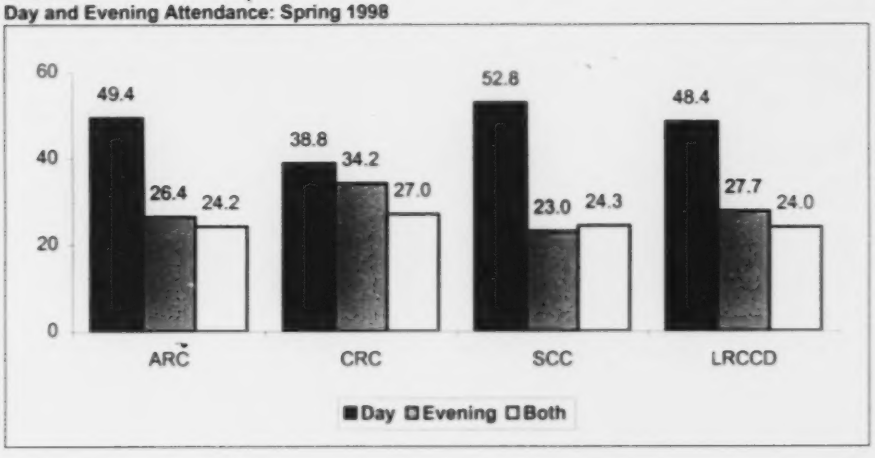
Chart 7 compares the proportions of day and evening attendance for Spring 1994 and Spring 1998. Figures indicate that 3.5% fewer students are attending courses that are offered only during the day and 2.4% fewer students are attending courses offered during the evening only. Conversely, 6% more students in Spring 1998 are attending *both* day and evening courses than was the case five years earlier.

Chart 7
LRCCD Enrollment by Day and Evening: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998



At each of the Los Rios colleges patterns of attendance have varied over the last five years, as illustrated in Chart 8. The proportions of students taking courses only during the day have decreased at each of the three colleges: from 53.5% to 49.4% at ARC, from 39.4% to 38.8% at CRC, and from 56.7% to 52.8% at SCC. The proportions of students who take courses only offered during the evening also decreased at all three colleges: from 29.5% to 26.4% at ARC, from 39.0% to 34.2% at CRC, and from 23.9% to 23.0% at SCC. The proportions taking *both* day and evening courses have increased at all three colleges: from 17.0% to 24.2% at ARC, from 21.6% to 27.0% at CRC, and from 19.4% to 24.3% at SCC.

Chart 8
Day and Evening Attendance: Spring 1998



ARC and SCC day and evening attendance patterns generally reflect those of the district. Enrollment proportions at CRC are quite different than those at the other two Los Rios colleges as well as those district-wide. CRC has a much lower proportion (38.8%) of students who attend day only courses than each of the other two Los Rios colleges (ARC, 49.4%; SCC, 52.8%) as well as when compared to the district-wide enrollment proportion of day only students (48.4%). CRC has a comparatively higher proportion of students enrolled in evening only courses (34.2%) as well attending *both* day and evening (27.0%) courses than the each of the other two Los Rios colleges and district-wide. The district enrollment pattern for attendance at CRC partially reflects the higher proportion of evening courses offered at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit-load are illustrated in Chart 9 to demonstrate trends in students' course loads from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. "Light-load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units. Seventy four percent of Los Rios students are part-time (mid and light-load) students, down from 81.4% in Spring 1994.

Chart 9
LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998

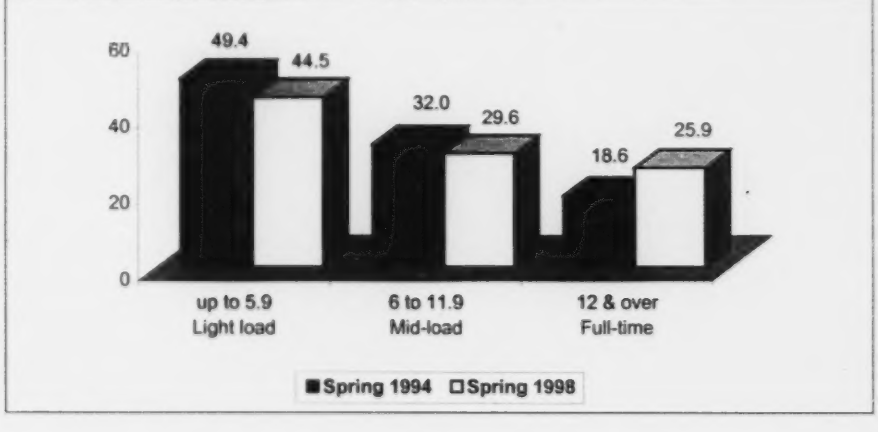


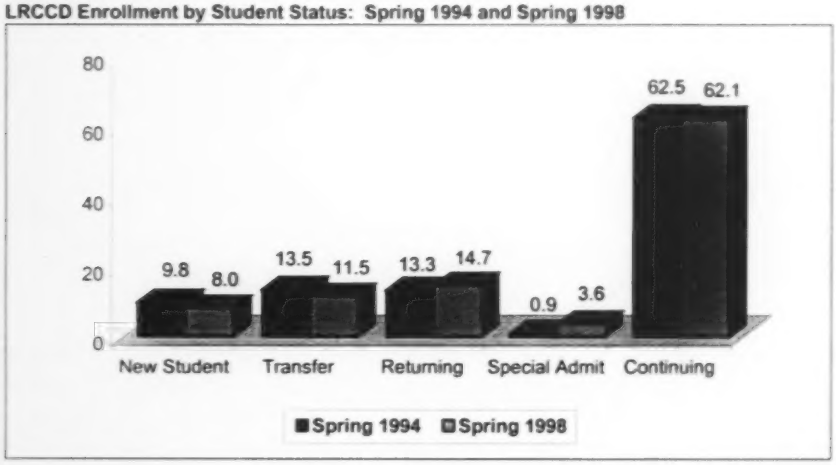
Chart 9 demonstrates not only the decline in light and mid-load course taking proportions, but the increase in full-time enrollment, up from 18.6% in Spring 1994 to 25.9% in Spring 1998. Among the District's colleges, Sacramento City College has the greatest proportion of full-time students (29.2%) in Spring 1998. American River College has 26.0% and CRC has 23.2%. It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions.

Students tended to carry lighter loads in Spring 1998 when compared to the previous Fall 1997 semester. Across the District the proportion of full-time students declined (from 28.1% to 25.9%), light-load students increased (from 41.3% to 44.5%) and students carrying mid-loads declined slightly (from 30.6% to 29.6%).

District Enrollment by Student Status

Chart 10 illustrates profiles of Los Rios students by their enrollment status. The vast majority of students are continuing students at their Los Rios college, but there are some subtle shifts in the remaining categories. There were slight declines in both new student (from 9.8% to 8.0%) and transfer student (from 13.5% to 11.5%) enrollments.

Chart 10
LRCCD Enrollment by Student Status: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998



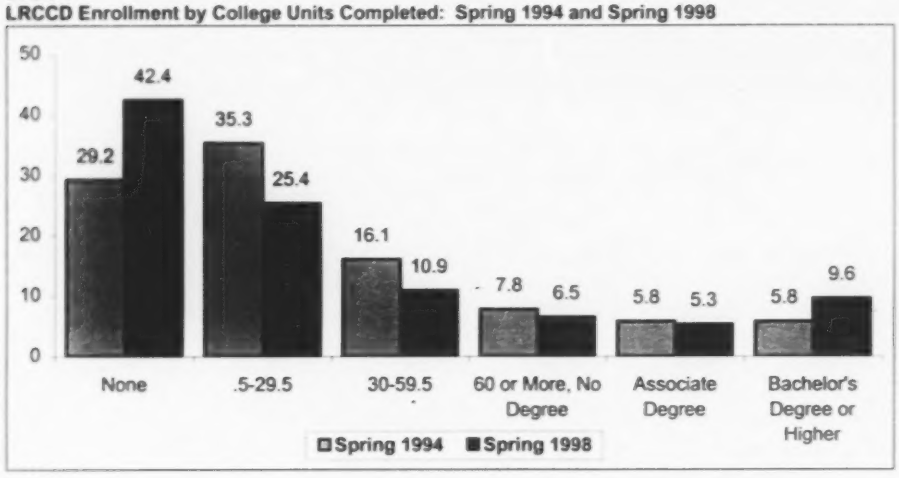
In contrast, the proportion of those students considered returning after an absence (from 13.3% to 14.7%) or special admits (from 0.9% to 3.6%) increased. CRC has experienced the most significant increase in special admit enrollment, increasing by 4.8%, (from 1.4% in Spring 1994 to 6.2% in Spring 1998). Not only is there a substantial increase in Special Admits from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998 at CRC, there was a 1.9% Special Admit enrollment increase from Fall 1997 (4.3%) to Spring 1998 (6.2%) as well.

District Enrollment by College Units Completed

Los Rios enrollment based upon college units previously completed has experienced some changes from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. As demonstrated in Chart 11, students with no previous college units increased substantially from 29.2% in Spring 1994 to 42.4% in Spring 1998. There were decreases district-wide in each of the categories in which students had completed at least some college units (ranging from .5 to 59.5 college units completed). The proportion of students enrolled who have an associate's degree remained fairly stable, decreasing slightly from 5.8% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 5.3% in Spring 1998. But LRCCD experienced increased enrollment by students who have a Baccalaureate degree or higher, from 5.8% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 9.6% of enrollment in Spring 1998. The "differential" fee of an additional $40 per unit for students already holding a Baccalaureate

degree which was initially established in Spring 1993 was eliminated in Spring 1996. The effect of the elimination of the "differential" fee is demonstrated when comparing Spring 1994 to Spring 1998.

Chart 11
LRCCD Enrollment by College Units Completed: Spring 1994 and Spring 1998



Enrollment of students by college units completed at the individual college level generally mirrors enrollment patterns of the district. ARC enrolls slightly fewer students with no college units completed (40.7%) compared to the district as a whole. The proportion of students with some college units completed (.5 to 59.5) is slightly higher at ARC (37.9%) compared to the district proportion of 36.3%.

Conclusions

The data presented in the first Spring Profile based on First Census data illustrates the overall stability of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment patterns as well as the changing demographic trends in particular areas of student enrollment. After a slight enrollment decline in Spring 1996 enrollment (by 1.1%), enrollment has increased in both Spring 1997 (by 8.1%) and Spring 1998 (by 2.8%).

Long term demographic trends continued in Spring 1998. The proportions of ethnic minorities continued to grow slightly while student enrollment by gender remained relatively constant. The trend toward an older student body at Los Rios continues, with 21.7% al all students enrolled 40-and-over. Comparison of Spring 1994 to Spring 1998 by age demonstrates a slight 2.0% increase in enrollment of students 20-and-under. This slight increase in younger students corresponds to the increase in Special Admits, students who are concurrently enrolled in local schools and college, as well as to a high school graduate population that is beginning to increase once again.

Attendance patterns have shifted over the past five years with fewer students taking courses offered *only* during the day and courses offered *only* in the evening and more attending *both* day and evening classes in Spring 1998. An interesting change in enrollment is seen in course load patterns of district students. The proportion of students taking light (up to 5.9 units) and mid (6 to 11.9 units) load has declined 7.4% from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. The proportion of full-time students has increased during this same period of time by 7.3%.

Subtle shifts in enrollment by student status occurred from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. The vast majority of Los Rios students are continuing, but the proportion has declined slightly. At the same time, there was an increase in enrollment of those students considered returning students as well as those students with an enrollment status of special admit.

Los Rios enrollment of students based on college units completed has experienced rather significant changes. The proportional enrollment of students with no previous college units increased by 13.2% from Spring 1994 to Spring 1998. In turn, there were enrollment decreases in each of the categories in which students had completed at least some college units. But there was a slight increase in those students who hold Baccalaureate degrees, a reflection of an older Los Rios student population, perhaps interested in retraining or upgrading work skills. The enrollment increases of students holding Baccalaureate degrees may also be a continued adjustment to the repeal of the $40 "differential" fee that was eliminated in Spring 1996.

The Spring 1998 profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the spring First Census reports that are issued for the fourth week of classes from the research database. Of additional interest to enrollment stability and shifting demographic trends is the increase in the number of duplicate students -- those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 753 students in Spring 1994 to 1,244 students in Spring 1998, a 65.2% increase. This suggests that the number of students who are mobile and willing to travel to take courses they need is expanding.

The reporting of those areas of demographic stability as well as demographic shifts is an important tool in the Los Rios Community College District's continuing efforts to meet current student needs. Likewise, it assists in formulating plans to address the needs of future student populations.

This report was written by Betty Glyer-Culver, Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, Systems Hardware and Software Performance Analyst.

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